

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 201111Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7077

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 8630

E.O. 11652: GDS84

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: FIFTH PLENARY SESSION OF JCCIA, DECEMBER 20,

REF: VIENTIANE 8453

BEGIN SUMMARY: RLG AND LPF DELEGATIONS SIGNED DOCUMENT EMBODYING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF JCCIA BUT MEETING WAS OTHERWISE CHARACTERIZED BY GROWING TENSION OVER LPF VIOLATIONS OF CEASE-FIRE AND RLG PROTESTS. RLG INSISTS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE-FIRE AND REACTIVATION OF ICC BE PLACED NEXT ON JCCIA AGENDA BUT LPF INSISTS THAT NEUTRALIZATION OF TWO CAPITALS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED FIRST. DISPUTE COULD LEAD TO STALEMATE IN JCCIA UNLESS ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER BACKS DOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. FULL RLG AND LPF DELEGATIONS, HEADED BY SOUKAN VILAYSARN AND SOTPEPHETRASY, RESPSQTIVELY, MET FOR THREE AND ONE-HALF HOURS TODAY AND SIGNED DOCUMENT
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DESCRIBING INTERNAL ORGANIZATION, WORKING PROCEDURES,

AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS AND INSIGNIA FOR MEMBERS OF JCCIA. (DOCUMENT IS IN LAO LANGUAGE) OTHERWISE, NO PROGRESS WAS MADE.

2. RLG SPOKESMAN LANE PATHAMMAVONG TOLD PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT MEETING HAD EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "PRESENT CRITICAL MILITARY SITUATION." RLG PROPOSED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE-FIRE BE PLACED NEXT ON JCCIARNGENDA, BEFORE NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. RLG DELEGATION DEMANDED THAT DEMARKATION OF CEASE-FIRE LINE AND EMPLACEMENT OF "HOT SPOT" BOUNDARY MARKERS BE GIVEN PRIORITY ESPECIALLY IN MR'S III AND IV WHERE THERE WERE "ALARMING TROOP MOVEMENTS." RLG DELEGATION ALSO PROTESTED AMBUSH ON ROQWE 13 NORTHWEST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN WHERE PATHET LAO TROOPS KILLED FOUR UNARMED PASSENGERS OF CIVILIAN TAXI, INCLUDING WOMAN AND CHILD.

3. RLG SPOKESMAN STATED THAT LPF DELEGATION HAD INSISTED NEUTRALIZATION OF CITIES KJD NEXT ITEM ON AGENDA AND WOULD NOT AGREE TO DISCUSS IDEASE-FIRE IMPLEMENTATION NOW. LPF AGREED TO ATTEND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW TO DISCUSS QUESTION. RLG DELEGATION ALSO SUBMITTED DRAFT LETTER EMBODYING JCCIA FORMAL REQUEST TO REACTIVATE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION. LPF ACCEPTED IT FOR STUDY BUT DID NOT DISCUSS IT TODAY. THERE WERE NO NEW LPF REQUESTS FOR CARGO FLIGHTS.

4. LPF DELEGATION SPOKESMAN PHATBOUNNAPHOL SEDD HIS DELEGATION HAD PROTESTED JDENCIRCLEMENT OF LPF TROOPS IN LUANG PG BANG BY RLG FORCES." HE AFFIRMED THAT LPF INSISTED ON DISCUSSING NEUTRALIZATIONSXF CAPITALS BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE-FIRE. PHAO REJECTED RLG PROTEST TX ROUTE 13 AMBUSH, ALLEGING THAT AFFAIR HAD BEEN "A SHOW PUT ON BY VIENTIANE EXTREMISM." HE CLJLMED THAT, AFTER KILLING FOUR PASSENGERS, LPF FLAG WAS FIXED ON VEHICLE BY "EXTREMISTS" TO INCRIMINATE LPF. HE STATED THAT 3149753 13 BELONGS TO VIENTIANE SIDE AND IS UNDER ITS
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CONTROL; THEREFORE, VIENTIANE SIDE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER HAPPENS THERE."

5. COMMENT: WE ARE TRANSLATING DOCUMENT SIGNED TODAY, AND WILL TRANSMIT IT FORTHWITH, ANALYZED WHERDEPERTINENWIM AT FIRST GLANCE IT APPEARS TO TAKE UP MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS, SUCH AS INSIGNIA, AUTHENTICATION OF OFFICIAL MINUTES AND OTHER JCCIA DOCUMENTS, SIZE OF SECURITY

CONTINGENTS FOR JCCIA AND SUB-BODIES, ETC. DOCUMENT
DOES STATE THAT "JCCIA IS INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION"
AND ITS RELATIONS
WITH NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICAL COUNCIL WILL BE BASED ON "EQUALITY."

6. MORE IMPORTANT IS GROWING TENSION IN NEGOTIATING
ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE PARTIES PRODUCED BY ROUTE WUE
AMBUSH. RLG ALSO CONDEMNED THIS INCIDENT IN CABINET
MEETING COMMUNIQUE IN OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE AND DURING
WEEKLY RLG SPOKESMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING.
CABINET COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT SUCH INCIDENTS AS
ROUTE 13 AMBUSH HAVE LED RLG TO CONCLUSION THAT "IT
IS NECESSARY AND URGENT FOR THE JCCIA TO ADDRESS THE
QUESTION OF SEPARATING THE FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES,
I.E., THE QUESTION OF DEMARCATING THEIR POSITIONS AS
WELL AS REACTIVATING THE ICC."

7. RLG SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG STATED THIS
MORNING THAT RLG "ENERGETICALLY CONDEMNED VIOLATED
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS BY LPF SIDE" DURING PAST TWO WEEKS.
HE STATED THAT CABINET HAD INSTRUCTED RLG DELEGATION
CHIEF SOUKAN VILAYSARN TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE JCCIA ATTEN-
TION TO SUBJECT OF DEMARCATING BOUNDARIES OF CONTESTED
SECTORS. "IF LPF REFUSES TO DISCUSS SUBJECT, RLG WILL

TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS," ACCORDING TO OUDAY.

8. DOCUMENT SIGNED TODAY WAS USEFUL IF MINOR
STEP FORWARD. HOWEVER, ROUTE 13 AMBUSH -- WHICH,
DESPITE LPNLSPOKESMAN'S DENIAL, IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN
PERPETRATED BY PXMHET LAO FORCES --V HAS PROVOKED
DIFFICULT SITUATION. OUDAY'S REFERENCE TO "APPRO-
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"APPROPRIATE STEPS" IS AN IMPLIED THREAT. BOTH SIDES ARE
THUS FACED WITH DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL SEPTEMBER 14.
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